

ACCESS POINTS: Take U.S. Hwy 9 from Fairplay or from Breckenridge to the center of the Town of Alma. Turn west on to CR 8. There is a small wooden sign for Kite Lake and Buckskin Gulch to mark the road. Follow the Kite Lake Road for 6 miles to the pay parking area. Parking costs \$3, and camping costs \$7. This road can be driven with a passenger car but it can be very rugged and rutted after a hard winter. Most cars can make it to near the Sweet Home Mine.

LENGTH: 1.4 MILES FROM SWEET HOME MINE TO KITE LAKE

1.0 MILE FURTHER TO LAKE EMMA (TOTAL 2.4 EACH WAY)
ROUND TRIP 4.8 MILES

SEASON: SUMMER, FALL

DIFFICULTY: MODERATE

USGS MAP: ALMA (7.5 QUAD) PIKE NATIONAL FOREST OR TRAILS ILLUSTRATED #109 BRECKENRIDGE TENNESSEE PASS

RECOMMENDATION: Wear sturdy high-top boots with heavy soles to navigate the talus slopes along the trail. Lake Emma chutes may be skied in winter but avalanche danger may be high. Appropriate safety equipment and beacons are required.

ATTRACTIONS: The trailhead at Kite Lake is bordered on three sides by Mount Democrat, Mount Bross and Mount Cameron. All are over 14,000 feet in height.

From Kite Lake Campground look for the trail leading southwest from the public

rest rooms on the southwest edge of Kite Lake. It is less travelled than the trail to Mount Democrat but noticeable if you know where to look. The trail is more distinct in some areas and fainter in others. It will cross the outflow of Lake Emma before rising steeply to Lake Emma itself. Don't be surprised to see ice on the lake, even into July. You will see Mount Democrat rising above to the north-northwest. Descend the 1,350 feet gained by the same trail.

SPECIAL INTEREST: The Sweet Home Mine has long been touted as the source of the world's finest rhodochrosite crystals formed by manganese carbonate. It exhibits a spectacular cherry-red color.

"The Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, through cooperative efforts, seeks to conserve unique natural areas, preserve historic and cultural sites, and promote diverse recreation".



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Lake Emma Trail





Lake Emma Trail Elevation Profile

